

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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2 1. In a networked computer system for transmitting messages from a
3 source to a destination, an apparatus for managing the delivery of messages to said
4 destination, said apparatus comprising:

5 means for tracking and guaranteeing the delivery of said messages
6 to said destination;

7 means for monitoring said tracking and guaranteeing means from a
8 single web site;

9 means for archiving said messages.
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2 2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 further comprising a database
3 associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered
4 during a selected time period.

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2 3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring
3 means comprises an XML application program interface.
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2 4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 further comprising means for
3 conducting searches.
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2 5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring
3 means comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.
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2 6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein said monitoring
3 means comprises:
4 a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet,
5 said first server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;

6 a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to
7 perform a function responsive to said XML message; and
8 means coupled to said second server for communicating the results
9 of said function to said user.

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2 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 wherein said monitoring
3 means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via
4 the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the
5 operation of said delivery means.

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2 8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising a database
3 associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered
4 during a selected time period.

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2 9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 6 further comprising means,
3 associated with said monitoring means, for recovering at least one of said archived
4 messages

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2 10. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said monitoring
3 means comprises an XML application program interface (API) further comprising:
4 means for receiving a request for a function;
5 means for building an XML message;
6 means for interpreting said XML message, said interpreting means
7 adapted to perform the requested function and returning an XML message to said
8 building means; and
9 means for applying a XSL style sheet to the received XML
10 message and sending the generated output to the user.

2 11. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for
3 conducting searches.

2 12. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said receiving means
3 comprises a portal accessible via the Internet.

2 13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein said monitoring
3 means comprises:

4 a first server for receiving requests from a user via the Internet, said first
5 server adapted to generate an XML message in response to said request;

6 a second server adapted to receive said XML message and to perform a
7 function responsive to said XML message; and

8 means coupled to said second server for communicating the results of said
9 function to said user.

2 14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 wherein said monitoring
3 means further comprises means for distributing XML messages to said delivery means via
4 the Internet, said XML messages containing operating instructions for changing the
5 operation of said delivery means.

2 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 further comprising a database
3 associated with said monitoring means for counting the number of messages delivered
4 during a selected time period.

2 16. A computer implemented method for exchanging information
3 between trading partners where a source connector generates a message containing the
4 information, said messages transmitted as a primary message to a destination connector
5 over a first communication backbone and as a secondary message to said destination
6 connector over a second communication backbone, said method comprising:

7 monitoring the transmission of said primary and secondary
8 messages;
9 receiving a request from said trading partners via a web site, said
10 request relating to the transmission of said message;
11 generating a response to said request, said response generated by
12 querying at least one database having information relating to said primary and
13 secondary messages; and
14 transferring said response to said trading partner.
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2 17. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:
3 counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time
4 period; and
5 transferring an invoice to the trading partner generating said
6 message.
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2 18. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising conducting
3 searches for information responsive to said request stored in said database.
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2 19. The method as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:
3 receiving requests from a user via the Internet;
4 generating an XML message in response to said request;
5 receiving said XML message at a server computer adapted to
6 access information stored in said database;
7 performing a function responsive to said XML message; and
8 communicating the results of said function to said user.
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2 20. The method as claimed in claim 19 wherein said receiving and
3 communicating steps utilize specific route points and a distributed communication
4 network.
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2 21. The method as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the step of
3 counting the number of messages delivered during a selected time period.
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2 22. The method as claimed in claim 19 further comprising recovering
3 at least one of said archived messages in response to said request.

1 23. A computer implemented method for exchanging information
2 between trading partners in a distributed computer networking system in which each
3 trading partner has a connector for initiating the transmission of a message along two
4 separate communication backbones, said method comprising the steps of:

5 generating a message header for each message for which a charge
6 is to be imposed; and

7 associating with said message header an indication of the time of
8 delivery to the trading partner at the destination.

1 24. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step
2 includes the step of transmitting each message header to a billing database.

1 25. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step
2 includes the step of determining statistical information regarding transmission latency.

1 26. The method as claimed in claim 25 further comprising the step of
2 providing said statistical information to a user through an Internet portal.

1 27. The method as claimed in claim 26 further comprising the steps of:
2 submitting a request through said portal;

identifying the user associated with said request;
accepting said request at a webserver, said webserver adapted to
building an XML message interpreting said request;
fetching information responsive to said XML message;
preparing a responsive XML message, said responsive XML
message including said responsive information;
interpreting said responsive XML message;
sending said responsive information to the user associated with
said request.

28. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said associating step
includes the steps of:

transmitting each message header to a billing database, said message
header including a sequence number; and

locating messages associated with a sequence number missing from said
billing database;

deducting a charge from an account associated with the trading partner
generating said message, said charge based on a user profile associated with said billing
database.

29. The method as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

configuring alerts;

monitoring the transmission of said messages;

generating an alert when a configured alert condition is detected.

1 30. The method as claimed in claim 23 wherein said generating step
2 includes the step of notifying an alert recipient.
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